

## REPORT ALCOHOL BILL THIS WEEK

Amendment Protects Standard Oil, But Advocates Claim Big Victory.

NO NEW POSTOFFICE YET

Public Buildings Bill Will Not Include Item for Building Here.

(From Our Regular Correspondent.)  
WASHINGTON, D. C., May 21.—The bill abolishing the tax on alcohol, when denatured for use in the arts, will be reported to the Senate from the Committee on Finance this week. This statement was made by a member of the committee to-day. Secretary Shaw will appear before the committee to-morrow and explain the workings of the proposed law, and also answer certain questions regarding the general nature of the bill.

It is understood that the House bill will be reported with an amendment providing for a tax of five or ten cents a gallon, ostensibly to defray the cost of the administration of the law. The amendment is designed to protect the Standard Oil against competition in the market for illuminants. While it is claimed that the alcohol can be used as a illuminant oil, and that it cannot stand a tax of ten cents or even five cents in competition with kerosene. It would appear that the committee, represented on the chairman, will be divided from all harm by the bill as it will be reported back to the Senate, and as it will be passed.

The advocates of the bill, however, believe that a great deal will have been gained by the passage of the bill in the amended form, and they are still hoping that the tax of ten cents a gallon will not be imposed. It is thought likely that the bill will also be amended in the Senate committee as to the effect until 1908. But still not so into effect until 1908. But even with this second amendment the advocates of the proposed legislation regard the bill as representing a victory for themselves.

### Free Seed Again.

The Senate Committee on Agriculture has agreed to so amend the House bill making appropriations for the support of the Department of Agriculture as to provide that the cost of the purchase of seeds and plants for distribution among the farmers shall be used in the purchase of seeds of rare specimens, and plants which are not commonly grown in this country. It is further provided that the distribution of seeds and plants shall be made by the Department of Agriculture, without the intervention of Senators and members of Congress.

The amendment will not be at all satisfactory to the majority, the very pronounced majority of the House. Representatives, who voted to continue the present method of free seed distribution. A number of members of the House Committee on Agriculture held a meeting to-day and considered means of defeating the amendment, if it should be put on in the Senate. It is understood that Representative Lamb, of Virginia, a senior Democratic member of the House Committee on Agriculture, who led the fight for the continuance of the free seed distribution, has mapped out plans which will insure the defeat of the amendment, should it be put on in the latter body.

### Something for Nothing.

"I am for the flag, without an appropriation attached," said Mr. John Quincy Adams, of New York, at the Capitol to-day. "This makes me somewhat of an anomaly in this day and time, but I am also a man who is trying to get the government to do something for nothing. I am not in return, and the government is trying not to accept it."

Mr. Adams is secretary of the American Flag House and Betsy Ross Memorial Association, which owns the building in Philadelphia in which Betsy Ross made the first American flag. The association purchased this building at a cost of \$25,000. Representative Moon, of Pennsylvania, has introduced a bill for the association, providing for transferring the house to the general government in fee simple, without the payment of a penny, and conditions only upon the government's keeping the building in repair and open to visitors. It is this provision at which several members balk. They say it is unprecedented. "The flag was without precedent," said Mr. Adams, "I am moving heaven and earth to get the bill through at this session. I believe it will be done."

### Panama Canal.

Comment of a certain senator to-day on the subject of type of canal to be dug through the Isthmus of Panama is typical of the attitude of a majority of the Senate. It is believed towards this question.

"I am rather inclined to favor a sea-level canal," he said, "I believe a canal of that type would be preferable to the lock canal, but my mind is not made up. I am not on the committee, and have not had the benefit of the information which the committee on Inter-oceanic canals has elicited. I have, however, discussed the matter with a number of senators, Democrats and Republicans, and have been struck with the fact that comparatively few of them have reached a conclusion as to how

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